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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/697,499	10/27/2000	Junichi Kimizuka	35.C14958	3514

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FITZPATRICK CELLA HARPER & SCINTO
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
NEW YORK, NY 10112

EXAMINER

LAMB, TWYLER MARIE

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2622

DATE MAILED: 10/01/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/697,499

Applicant(s)

KIMIZUKA ET AL.

Examiner

Twyler M. Lamb

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 October 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-48 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-48 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ichikawa et al. (Ichikawa) (US 5,617,224).

With regard to claims 1, 9 and 15, Ichikawa discloses an image formation apparatus (Figure 1, color printer 2) which performs image formation by raster scanning (col 6, lines 46-47-59), comprising: masking means (error judgment and elimination circuit 130I) for masking an image signal on the periphery of a screen in a main scanning direction and a sub scanning direction (col 20, lines 11-13); input means (scanner 711) for inputting the image signal (col 6, lines 47-50); judgment means for judging an input mode of the image signal input by said input means (col 7, lines 45-61); and control means (CPU 20) for changing an image masking range of said masking means, in accordance with a judged result of said judgment means (col 20, lines 11-45).

With regard to claims 2, 10 and 16, Ichikawa also discloses wherein said judgment means judges an image input mode designation signal (col 7, lines 45-61).

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With regard to claims 3, 11 and 17, Ichikawa also discloses wherein in a printer mode that the image signal is input from a host computer apparatus (col 7, lines 45-61), said control means causes said masking means to give to a gate circuit an image masking signal by which an image can be formed up to the edge of a sheet, so as to expand the image up to the marginal edge of the sheet, and in a mode that the image signal is input from an image reader (col 7, lines 45-61), said control means causes said masking means to give to the gate circuit an image masking signal by which a margin can be provided at the edge of the sheet so as to limit an image area (col 20, lines 11-45).

With regard to claims 4, 12 and 18, Ichikawa also discloses wherein, only when an image masking area reduction command is input, said control means causes said masking means to give to the gate circuit the image masking signal by which the image can be formed up to the edge of the sheet so as to expand the image up to the marginal edge of the sheet (col 20, lines 11-45).

With regard to claims 5, 13 and 19, Ichikawa discloses an image formation apparatus (Figure 1, color printer 2) which performs image formation by raster scanning (col 6, lines 46-47-59), comprising: masking means (error judgment and elimination circuit 130I) for masking an image signal on the periphery of a screen in a main scanning direction and a sub scanning direction (col 20, lines 11-13); input means (scanner 711) for inputting the image signal (col 6, lines 47-50); judgment means for judging an input mode of the image signal input by said input means (col 7, lines 45-61); and control means (CPU 20) for inhibiting, in a mode that the image signal is input from

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an image reader, a change of an image masking range by said masking means, in accordance with a judged result of said judgment means (col 20, lines 11-45).

With regard to claims 6, 14 and 20, Ichikawa also discloses wherein, as said input means, said apparatus has image signal input means for inputting the image signal obtained by reading an image from said image reader, and image signal generation means for generating an image signal on the basis of information received from a host computer apparatus (col 7, lines 45-61).

With regard to claim 7, Ichikawa also discloses wherein said image formation apparatus is a laser beam printer which performs scanning with multibeam, or an electronic equipment which has a laser beam printer mechanism (col 6, lines 53-59).

With regard to claim 8, Ichikawa also discloses wherein said image formation apparatus is a light emission diode array printer, or an electronic equipment which has a light emission diode array printer mechanism.

With regard to claims 21 and 31, Ichikawa discloses an image formation apparatus (Figure 1, color printer 2) comprising: plural input means for inputting image data (col 7, lines 45-61); recording means (color printer 2) for recording an image on the basis of an image signal input by any of said plural input means (col 6, lines 46-47-59); masking means (error judgment and elimination circuit 130I) for masking the image to be recorded by said recording means (col 20, lines 11-13); and control means (CPU 20) for controlling a masking area of said masking means, on the basis of by which of said plural input means the image data was input (col 20, lines 11-45).

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With regard to claims 22 and 32 , Ichikawa also discloses wherein said plural input means include at least reading means for reading an original image, and reception means for receiving the image data from a host computer (col 7, lines 45-61).

With regard to claims 23 and 33, Ichikawa also discloses further comprising masking control means for expanding an image area up to the vicinity of a sheet edge by reducing the masking area of said masking means when the image is recorded based on the image signal from said reception means (col 20, lines 11-45).

With regard to claims 24 and 34, Ichikawa also discloses further comprising means for permitting said masking control means to reduce the masking area when the image is recorded based on the image signal input from said reception means, and inhibiting said masking control means from reducing the masking area when the image is recorded based on the image data read by said reading means (col 20, lines 11-45).

With regard to claims 25 and 35, Ichikawa discloses an image formation apparatus (Figure 1, color printer 2) comprising: reading means (scanner 711) for reading an original image (col 6, lines 47-50); reception means for receiving an image signal from a host computer (col 7, lines 45-61); recording means (color printer 2) for recording an image on the basis of the image signal input by said reading means said reception means (col 6, lines 46-47-59; masking means (error judgment and elimination circuit 130I) for masking the image to be recorded by said recording means; and control means for controlling a masking area of said masking means, on the basis of by which of said reading means and said reception means the image signal was input (col 20, lines 11-45).

With regard to claims 26 and 36, Ichikawa also discloses further comprising: masking control means for controlling, in order to expand an image area up to the vicinity of a sheet edge, said masking means to reduce the masking area on the basis of reception of a command to reduce the masking area of said masking means; and means for permitting the reduction of the masking area only when the image is recorded based on image data input by said reception means (col 20, lines 11-45).

With regard to claims 27 and 37, Ichikawa also discloses wherein said masking means comprises masking signal generation means for generating a masking signal, and logical calculation means for performing logical calculation to the image signal and the masking signal generated by said masking signal generation means (col 20, lines 11-45).

With regard to claims 28 and 38, Ichikawa also discloses wherein said recording means comprises a semiconductor laser, means for scanning a laser beam generated by said semiconductor laser, and detection means for detecting the laser beam scanned by said scanning means (col 6, lines 53-59).

With regard to claims 29 and 39, Ichikawa also discloses wherein said masking means masks the laser beam in a main scanning direction and a sub scanning directions of the laser beam (col 20, lines 11-45).

With regard to claims 30 and 40, Ichikawa also discloses wherein said masking means controls masking in a main scanning direction on the basis of a detection signal of said detection means (col 20, lines 11-45).

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With regard to claims 41 and 45, Ichikawa discloses an image formation apparatus (Figure 1, color printer 2) comprising: scanning means for scanning plural lasers (col 6, lines 54-59); input means (scanner 711) for inputting image data corresponding to the plural lasers (col 6, lines 47-50); and generation means (error judgment and elimination circuit 130I) for masking the image to be recorded by said recording means (col 20, lines 11-13) for generating a masking signal to control light emission of each of the plural lasers, wherein the plural masking signals are generated by said generation means at mutually independent timing (col 20, lines 11-45).

With regard to claims 42 and 46, Ichikawa also discloses further comprising detection means for detecting a laser beam scanned, so as to generate a sync signal (col 6, lines 54-59; col 7, lines 45-61).

With regard to claims 43 and 47, Ichikawa also discloses wherein said generation means generates each of the plural masking signals on the basis of each of the plural laser beams detected by said detection means (col 20, lines 11-45).

With regard to claims 44 and 48, Ichikawa also discloses wherein said generation means generates each of the plural masking signals on the basis of the single laser beam detected by said detection means (col 20, lines 11-45).

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Twyler Lamb whose telephone number is 703 - 308-8823. The examiner can normally be reached on M-TH (8:30-5:00).

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward L Coles can be reached on 703-308-4712. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9306 for regular communications and 703-872-9314 for After Final communications.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 872-9314

(for informal or draft communications, such as proposed amendments to be discussed at an interview; please label such communications "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

or hand-carried to:

Crystal Park Two
2121 Crystal Drive
Arlington, VA.
Sixth Floor (Receptionist)

Twyler Lamb



September 30, 2004